



Minnesota Christian Writers Guild

Instruction—Inspiration—Fellowship

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March 10, Charlene Patterson, Editor “Christian Fiction Trends”



Charlene Patterson has worked in just about every job available in the Editorial Department of a book publishing company. Even so, she still enjoys reading in her spare time! Currently, she is a Fiction Acquisitions Editor at Bethany House Publishers.

At the March Guild meeting, Charlene will look at the past, present, and future of Christian

fiction, including current trends and what to write if you want to interest a publisher.

The mission statement for Bethany House Publishers, a division of Baker Publishing Group, is “Baker Publishing Group publishes high-quality writings that represent historic Christianity and serve the diverse interests and concerns of evangelical readers.” As for fiction, they publish a variety of genres—historical, romance, bonnet, suspense, fantasy, and women’s fiction. Bethany House provides a reliable alternative to the general market, with books free from swearing and graphic violence and sex.

For information on current releases from Bethany House, check out www.bethanyhouse.com or join their Facebook page.

Upcoming Guild Meetings

April 12, Spring Seminar, David Sheets, marketing
All About eBooks

April 14, MCWG Member Panel hosted by Joyce K. Ellis
Practical Insights for Today’s Christian Writer

May 12, MCWG 60th Anniversary Celebration
Jonathan Friesen:
Writing for the Generations



**2014 MCWG
Annual Writing
Contest Topic:
NEWS ARTICLES—
see page 2 for details**



SIGN UP TODAY!
Spring Seminar
All About eBooks, Publishing & More

Make plans to attend MCWG’s Spring Seminar on Saturday, April 12, 2014. The full day seminar, *All About eBooks*, will be held at Bethlehem Baptist.



David Sheets, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer for Outlaw Sales Group LLC, will describe technology changes in publishing, trends in self-publishing, how publishers sell books, and how authors build a marketing strategy. He will discuss publishing strategies that do not work and talk about eBook publishing options.

Brochures for the seminar, containing full details, may be picked up at the Guild meeting or found on our website.

2013-14 Theme Verse

2 Corinthians 3:2-3 ESV

*You yourselves are our letter of recommendation,
written on our hearts, to be known and read by all.*

*And you show that
you are a letter from Christ delivered by us,
written not with ink*

*but with the Spirit of the living God,
not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*



Visit our Website

www.mnchristianwriters.com

Contact us: info@mnchristianwriters.com



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2014 MCWG Writing Contest Guidelines

NEWS ARTICLES



Bev's PEN ~ By Beverly Snyder

Promote, Encourage, Network

Good News for the Twin Cities

News articles for the 2014 MCWG annual contest must contain a headline, location, lead, and body. For purposes of anonymity, do not include a byline. Articles should be factual and of interest to the Christian community within the Twin Cities' greater metro area.

This year there is a \$5 entry fee to cover the judging costs.

- All entrants must be members of MCWG.
- Manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced, and previously unpublished.
- Maximum word count is 700 words. Word count must appear at the top left of the manuscript on page one.
- Attach a cover sheet with your name, address, phone number, and e-mail. Do not include this information on the manuscript itself (this retains confidentiality during the judging process).
- Deadline: Monday April 14, 2014 at 9:00 pm (by the end of the Guild meeting).
- Submit entry article and \$5 entry fee in person or by mail to Lotis Key-Kabigting, 1586 Sussex Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55345.
- Only manuscripts accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope will be returned.
- The decision of the judge is final. The judge will remain anonymous.
- Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the May 12, 2014 meeting.
- 1st prize is \$100. 2nd prize is \$75. 3rd prize is \$50.

Write a news story of interest to Christians in the greater Twin Cities area. Hmm? At the February meeting Amy Lyon gave instruction on how to compose great leads along with suggestions for a variety of news stories found in local community papers. But what news would be of benefit to Minnesota Christians? Good news, that's what.

As workers in a harvest field, we are to follow Jesus' example of spreading good news of God's kingdom. We go with compassion, understanding that people are "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matt. 9:36).

Isaiah also gave me a few ideas. We are to proclaim freedom for captives and release from darkness for prisoners. What local ministries labor to free people from human trafficking? We are to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God. Where do we see God working in both mercy and correction? We are to proclaim peace, good tidings, and salvation as we bind up the brokenhearted and give comfort to all who mourn. Where do we find compassionate Christians sacrificing for the needs of others? How can we help relieve despair by relaying beautiful stories of people spreading the gospel and healing hurts?

In Matthew, Jesus sent encouragement to John when He said, "Go back and report... what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor."

What good news stories will you write to encourage faith in the Twin Cities and beyond?

2013-2014 Officers

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Meeting Schedule

Meetings are the second Monday of each month, September through May, 6:30-9 p.m. in the lower level Youth Room at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 720 13th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55415. The meeting room is handicap accessible.



Parking for Guild Meetings

Bethlehem Baptist Church is located in downtown Minneapolis, between South 7th and 8th Streets. Free parking for Guild members/visitors is accessed off South 8th St. When full, parking is available across 7th Street for a nominal cost. Entrance doors adjoin the main parking lot. If attendant at main doors is unavailable, please call Delores Topliff at 612-356-8281.

Come early. Share a ride.